

News Release - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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January is National Radon Action Month

In recognition of January as National Radon Action Month, the Coconino County Public Health Services District (CCPHSD) and Coconino County Community Development (CCCD) are encouraging residents to test their homes for radon. Radon is a naturally occurring, invisible, odorless, tasteless gas that can reach harmful levels when trapped in buildings.

CCPHSD Environmental Services and CCCD are offering a limited supply of **FREE radon test kits** to the public. Kits will be available beginning Wednesday, January 18, 2012 at the Coconino County offices at 2500 N. Fort Valley Road, Flagstaff and at the CCPHSD Northern Region office located at 467 Vista Ave in Page. Kits will be given out on a first come first served basis. Office hours are 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday.

“Many people don’t know about radon because you can’t see, smell or taste it. The only way to know if it is a radon problem in your home is to test for it,” said Sue Pratt, Coconino County Community Development Interim Director.

“Radon testing is inexpensive and easy. We’re offering a limited supply of free testing kits but radon test kits are also available at local hardware and home improvement stores and many are priced under \$20.00,” said Barbara Worgess, Coconino County Public Health Services District Chief Health Officer.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that radon is responsible for more than 20,000 lung cancer deaths per year. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S. after smoking and the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers.

Radon comes from the natural breakdown of uranium in soil and rocks. Radon can get into the air you breathe within your home and into your drinking water.

In general, the migration of radon up from the soil contributes the largest percentage of radon found in the average home. Water from a private well, particularly a bedrock well, also known as an artesian or drilled well, can also be a source of radon in homes.

For more information on radon, radon testing and mitigation, and radon-resistant new construction, contact CCPHSD Environmental Services at 928.679.8750 or visit www.coconino.az.gov/health and the EPA’s National Radon Action Month Web site at www.epa.gov/radon/nram.

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